

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are all the claims pending in the application. Solely to advance prosecution of certain embodiments of the invention, claims 2, 5, and 8 have been canceled and their features incorporated into claims 1, 4, and 7, respectively.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating acceptance of the drawings. Applicants also thank the Examiner for considering the references cited in Applicants' November 18, 2003 and February 20, 2004 Information Disclosure Statements as indicated on page 4 of the Office Action. For Applicants' records, Applicants kindly request that the Examiner provide a copy of signed PTO Form 1449 for the February 20, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement in the next Office Action.

Claim Rejections

Claims 7-9,12, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Roach et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,434,394). Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roach et al. in view of Morisawa, "Proposal for a processing model for a distributed processing system", 17 May 1996, Vol. 96 No. 41, pages 17-24.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As recited in the independent claims, in the present invention, the transmission element of the salesclerk terminal transmits, in addition to the order information, a registration address, which is used to register the order information to the shop ordering system, to the order reception system, and the transmission element of the order reception system transmits the order

identification information and the order information to the shop ordering system based on the registration address.

Further, as recited in claims 3, 6, and 9, the transmission element of the order reception system transmits a registration result address, through which the order reception system receives an order registration processing result, to the shop ordering system in addition to the order identification information and the order information, and the shop ordering system includes a transmission element which transmits the order registration processing result to the order reception system based on the registration result address.

Thus, according to features of the present invention, it is possible to register the order information to the shop ordering system which is not predetermined, but flexibly determined based on the registration address.

On the other hand, in Morisawa, two order placement systems are predetermined. The system in Morisawa *is not* configured to arbitrarily determine an order reception system or a shop ordering system. Morisawa is silent about transmitting, in addition to the order information, a registration address, which is used to register the order information to the shop ordering system, to the order reception system. Also, Morisawa is silent about transmitting a registration result address, through which the order reception system receives an order registration processing result, to the shop ordering system in addition to the order identification information and the order information.

Unlike the literature by Morisawa, in the present invention, it is possible to register the order information to the shop ordering system which is not predetermined, but flexibly determined based on the registration address transmitted from the transmission element of the

salesclerk terminal. Further, according to the features of the present invention as recited in claims 3 and 6, it is possible to transmit the order registration processing result to the order reception system which is not predetermined, but flexibly determined based on the registration result address transmitted from the transmission element of the order reception system.

In U.S. Patent No. 5,434,394 (Roach et al.), located throughout the store 200, the computers 18 function to process orders for merchandise from customers. The computer 18 scans the customer's member card 66, then scans the product code label 68 associated with a particular piece of merchandise. A transaction record of the sale is created and forwarded to the controller 12. Selection and delivery scheduling options are provided to the customer by the computer 18. The computer 18 is capable of retrieving credit balance information for the customer. The transaction record created for the sale is forwarded from the controller 12 to the main store processor 14, for immediate use by the DCS Warehouse retrieval system (see column 5, line 61-column 6, line 6). In Roach et al., however, the transaction record from the controller 12 is not forwarded to other than the main store processor 14 of the DCS Warehouse. Roach et al. is silent about transmitting, in addition to the order information, a registration address, which is used to register the order information to the shop ordering system, to the order reception system. Roach et al. is also silent about transmitting a registration result address, through which the order reception system receives an order registration processing result, to the shop ordering system in addition to the order identification information and the order information.

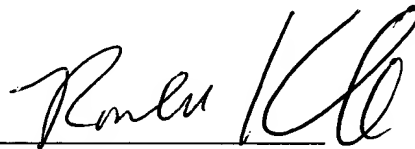
Unlike Roach et al., in the present invention, it is possible to register the order information to the shop ordering system which is not predetermined but flexibly determined based on the registration address transmitted from the transmission element of the salesclerk

terminal. Further, according to the features of the present invention of claims 3 and 6, it is also possible to transmit the order registration processing result to the order reception system which is not predetermined but flexibly determined based on the registration result address transmitted from the transmission element of the order reception system. Accordingly, neither Morisawa or Roach et al. disclose or suggest features of the invention as recited in the independent claims.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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